

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-1777 • Fax: 517-373-5871
E-mail: senjbarcia@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD31



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2003

CONTACT: Sen. Jim Barcia (D-Bay City)
(517) 373-1777

BARCIA RECOGNIZES ORGANIZERS OF TALL SHIP MARITIME FESTIVAL AT STATE CAPITOL

(LANSING)—State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) honored the organizers of the “Tall Ship® Celebration: Bay City” today during a special presentation on the floor of the Michigan Senate. Among those being honored were Kevin Dykema, Chair of the Bay City Board; and Shirley Roberts, Event Coordinator.

“Thousands of city residents and visitors from across the state were able to enjoy the beauty and unique architecture of the fifteen tall ships that lined the Saginaw River this past summer because of the hard work and leadership of these dedicated individuals,” said Barcia. “This was the second time in three years that Bay City was chosen as a host port, an honor that can only be attributable to the remarkable efforts of this well respected group of individuals.”

The celebration, held August 14-18, 2003, included ship tours, a Maritime Music Festival and the Mariner’s Ball, among other events. Bay City was one of only six host ports in the “Tall Ships Challenge® 2003 – The Great Lakes,” an annual series of sail training races, rallies, cruises, and port festivals, organized by the American Sail Training Association (ASTA). Other host ports included Cleveland, Toledo, Chicago, Muskegon, and Sarnia.

Those being recognized today for their many talents and sacrifices in organizing the “Tall Ship® Celebration: Bay City” included Kevin Dykema, Chair; Paul Birch, Chief Liaison Officer; Wanda Dziwura, Sponsorship Chair; Gena Gates, Secretary and Volunteer Chair; John Kolessar, Logistics Co-Chair; Mayor Kathleen Newsham, Logistics Co-Chair; Bruce Niederer, Ship Recruitment and Support Co-Chair; Tom Niemann, Arts and Entertainment Co-Chair; Christine

Rasmussen, Treasurer and Finance Chair; Patti Stowell, Vice Chair and Marketing Chair; Doug Wirt, Ship Recruitment and Support Co-Chair; as well as the liaisons to the board: Senior Chief Mike Martin and Deputy Chief Chris Rupp; and Event Coordinator Shirley Roberts.

Event organizers are already making plans for the next Tall Ship celebration which is expected to take place in Bay City in 2006.

State Senator Jim Barcia represents the 31st Senate District, which includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties.

(Photos and press release are available at Sen. Barcia's website:

www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/jimbarcia).

#####